



TOWN OF

KENSINGTON

APRIL 2004 *JOURNAL*

Meeting Schedule

April 26, 7:30 p.m. Town Meeting
Discussion/Introduction of Proposed Amendments to Sign Ordinance
Introduction of FY 2004/2005 Budget

May 3, 7:00 p.m. Work Session

May 24th
Candidate Forum
Public Hearing/Adoption of Amendments to Sign Ordinance
Public Hearing/Adoption of FY 2004/2005 Budget
Town Meeting

Events

Earth/Arbor Day Celebration

The Town of Kensington will be holding its annual celebration on Sunday, April 25th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall

Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market opens on May 1 from 8:00 a.m. – 12 noon at the Kensington Train Station

If you would like to receive brief e-mail updates regarding Town business please sign up for e-Announcements on the home page of the Town's website (www.tok.org)

Contact us at 3710 Mitchell Street, Kensington, MD 20895
Phone: 301-949-2424; Fax: 301-949-4925;
E-mail: mayor.council@tok.org; Web Site: www.tok.org

*****TOWN ELECTIONS*****

JUNE 7, 2004 6 P.M. TO 9 P.M.

TOWN HALL (ARMORY)

3710 MITCHELL STREET

KENSINGTON, MD 20895

**MAYOR AND
TWO COUNCIL MEMBER POSITIONS
TWO YEAR TERMS**

Nominations: Persons may be nominated for elective office in the Town by filing a certificate of nomination at the Town Office by 4:00 p.m. on or before the second Monday in May (May 10, 2004).

Voter Qualifications: Every person who is a citizen of the U.S., at least 18 years of age, has resided within the corporate limits of the Town for thirty days and is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Town Charter shall be a qualified voter of the Town and shall be entitled to vote at any or all Town elections.

Voter Registration: Registration by a Town resident with the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors of Elections shall be deemed registration for Town elections. Applications for such registration must be received at the County Board on the fifth Monday prior to an election (May 3, 2004). Please note: you must be registered by the County with a Town address.

Town citizens, who do not register to vote with the County, may register with the Town at the Town office, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Town registration books close on May 25, 2004.

Absentee Voting: Any qualified and registered voter may apply at the Town office during regular office hours for an absentee ballot if he or she cannot be present at an upcoming Town election.

*****ELECCIONES DE KENSINGTON*****

7 DE JUNIO, 2004 De 6 P.M. a 9 P.M.

AYUNTAMIENTO (La Armería)

3710 Mitchell Street

Kensington, MD 20895

**ALCALDE Y
DOS PUESTOS EN EL CONSEJO
DOS AÑOS DE MANDATO**

Nombramientos: Las personas pueden ser nominadas para los puestos oficiales para la Ciudad de Kensington rellenando un certificado de nombramiento en la oficina de la Ciudad de Kensington. El plazo para realizar los nombramientos es hasta el segundo Lunes de Mayo (10 de Mayo, 2004) a las 4:00 p.m.

Requisitos para los Votantes: Todas las personas que sean ciudadanas americanas, de 18 años de edad minima, que hayan vivido al menos 30 días en los límites corporativos de la ciudad y estén empadronadas de acuerdo con lo estipulado en los estatutos de la ciudad de Kensington estarán capacitados para votar y tendrán el derecho a votar en todas las elecciones de la Ciudad de Kensington.

Registro para el votante: El registro de un ciudadano de la Ciudad de Kensington con el Consejo de Supervisores de las Elecciones del Condado de Montgomery será considerado como registro para las elecciones de la Ciudad de Kensington. Las solicitudes para dicho registro debe ser recibido en el Consejo del Condado el quinto Lunes antes de una elección (3 de Mayo, 2004). Atención: Usted debe empadronarse en el Condado con una dirección de la Ciudad de Kensington.

Ciudadanos de la ciudad de Kensington, el que no se registre para votar con el Condado, se debe registrar con la Ciudad de Kensington en la oficina de la ciudad, de Lunes a Viernes, de 8:00 a.m. a 4:00 p.m. Los libros de registro cerrarán el 25 de Mayo, 2004.

Voto por Correo: Cualquier votante que cumpla los requisitos y esté registrado, puede solicitar la votación por correo en la oficina de la Ciudad de Kensington durante las horas laborales, si la persona va a estar ausente en las próximas elecciones.

Summer Meeting Schedule

June 14 at 7:00 p.m. Work Session
July 5 Meeting to set Council Responsibilities
July 26 at 7:00 p.m. Work Session
August 16 at 7:00 p.m. Work Session

For Your Information

Tree City USA and The Maryland Plant Community Award

At the Earth/Arbor Day Celebration the Town will be presented with the Tree City USA Award and the Maryland Plant Community Award.

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School

To ensure there is adequate staffing for next fall, the Kensington Parkwood Elementary School is encouraging any prospective families to register their children as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the school or its programs you can either contact PTA President Susan Workman 301-770-1088 or Principal John Cechini at 301-571-6949.

The Town of Kensington is proud of Kensington Parkwood Elementary as the public grade school all of our residents attend. The Town supports its school in the following ways:

- Substantially reduced price for the rental of the drill hall for the PTA Fundraiser

- Support of the students who are part of the Odyssey of the Mind
- Support the 8k race each year
- Loaning bulletin boards and tables for events in the school
- Shared Program Open Space funds to replace their playground equipment

Montgomery County Police Seasonal Crime Prevention Tips

Residential burglaries frequently occur by burglars gaining entrance through an unlocked door (including garage doors) or window. Police officers encourage citizens to lock doors and windows, especially when not at home, but even if the homeowner is just outside doing yard work. In less than a minute a thief can flee with an item such as a lawnmower or bike. If an inner door to the house is also unlocked, a thief could enter the residence and steal additional property.

Unsecured vehicles are also easy targets for criminals. Keep your car locked at all times.

Spring is the time that transient criminals come into the metropolitan area. They often live out of state, use several vehicles displaying out of state tags. The groups are made up of individual families who always travel together. They may have their small children participate in the scam, and sometimes it is the children who are the ones stealing the valuables. Jewelry, silverware, and cash are most often taken. These criminals enter the home while a homeowner is just outside doing yard work. Or they may ask the homeowner for a glass of water for a child. While the homeowner is distracted by getting water, another member is stealing valuables from inside the home. Many times the theft is not discovered until much later.

Spring is also the time of year when there are a series of home improvement scams. Typically the elderly are targeted. Unsolicited workers knock on a home owner's door, claim they are doing work in the area and notice that this home needs some attention. It may be a cracked driveway, a bad roof, or a damaged chimney. The work is often NOT needed and is of substandard quality. High pressure tactics are applied and money is demanded up front. This year, be especially concerned about unannounced "utilities inspectors" who want to gain access to your residence under the pretense of inspecting pipes for lead content or pinhole leaks.

These scams are not new, but there are new victims each season. Some have lost thousands of dollars in the phony repair scams.

Citizens are asked to call 911 to report any suspicious activity in progress, and to call the police non-emergency number 301-279-8000 to report unusual people, vehicles, or activity in a neighborhood.

Volunteers Wanted

Help plant a rain garden in Ernest Memorial Park. Montgomery County Department of the Environment is sponsoring a rain garden in Ernest Memorial Park. Rain Gardens help with the control and quality of storm water. Meet in the Council Room at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 17th. Great way to help your Town, clean the storm water, and earn

community service hours. Please contact David Furman at david.furman@tok.org to express interest. Tools and gloves will be provided.

Yard Waste Pick Up

Now that we are in spring gardening please note the rules for yard waste:

- All waste must be in paper bags or cans. **No Plastic Bags!**
- Branches 3" or less need to be bundled, bagged, or in cans. No longer than 4'.
- Logs over 4" piled separately.
- No trash, concrete, bricks, lumber is allowed to be mixed in yard waste

Street Lights

An extensive effort has been made to try to get PEPCO to repair all streetlights in Town. We believe that all have been reported by now. PEPCO should have this work done by April 23.

Recycling

Recycling saves the Town a lot of money. If you have tips that you wish to share which aid in your efforts to recycle please send them to my attention. Perhaps sharing ideas will help increase our recycling.

The Journal is now being mailed. If you are already reading it on the web site or if you do not wish to receive it, please contact the Town Office to have your address removed from the mailing list in an effort to cut expenses. Thank you for your cooperation.

Park Update

You'll notice that some of the scheduled improvements to St. Paul Park have been recently made. Thanks to the Mayor, former Council Member Scharman and David Furman for making them happen!

While we're out enjoying the beautiful parks here in Town this spring and summer, a couple of requests for all Town residents:

- (1) Weeds and vines: we always have a bumper crop in the spring and its tough for the Town crew and landscaper to keep up with all the weeding and vine removal that needs to be done. You can help us by pulling weeds and vines while you are in the parks. If you are unsure of the difference between a plant and a weed, check with David Gregg or Louise Hamilton who can advise you before you start pulling;
- (2) Winds can blow trash from the receptacles - you can help us by picking trash up and putting it back into the cans;

- (3) Playground equipment may need repair from time to time - if you notice a piece of equipment in need of repair, please call the Town Office so they can schedule maintenance; and
- (4) If you see any suspicious or disruptive activities occurring in our parks, please call the Town Office or the Mayor or Council immediately so we can follow-up with the Police.

Thanks for your help in maintaining our parks!

Mayor's Report

This month the Mayor has focused much attention on the 2004/05 budget. The Mayor and Clerk Treasurer have found ways to streamline and still be able to continue work on our major priorities for next year. Highway User Revenues are less and our priority list grows each year.

As most of you are aware the Town has focused on infrastructure improvements over the last six years. The Council wants to continue to improve our streets, sidewalks, Town Hall/Community Center, parks and maintain the level of services we are all used to in our Town.

The Mayor has traveled to Annapolis several times this month. First to testify on behalf of Maryland Municipal League to support a bill that would help recover some of the lost Highway User Revenue. The second trip was to testify on Senate Bill 565 to ask for an extension of one year on a \$150,000 Bond Bill to continue restoration of the Kensington Town Hall/Community Center.

The Mayor attended the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department Annual Awards Evening. All of us recognize the wonderful job our fire fighters do to keep us safe in Kensington. However being present when they are honored for going the extra mile was most rewarding.

The Mayor attended an MML Chapter Meeting this past month. We hold an annual meeting with the Montgomery County Council in March. This gives all municipalities in Montgomery County a forum to discuss issues with our County Council on a regular basis.

Thank you to Andrea Gill for chairing the Red Cross Blood Drive. The Red Cross was very pleased with the turnout. We hope to have even a better participation for the next drive. Ms Gill is planning to hold this event twice a year. Look for announcements for the next one.

Thank you to Ann Elsbree for serving on the Tree Board for several years. Ms. Elsbree has been an asset to the committee and will be missed when she and Mr. Elsbree move from Kensington. However we are pleased that Ranelle Bruch has agreed to serve as a member of the Board. The Mayor hopes to appoint Ms. Bruch at the May Meeting.

Council Reports

Council Member Carr

Traffic and Safety

- Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation completed construction of a new sidewalk on Lexington Ave between Perry and University just outside of the Town boundaries. This will enable Town residents on the north side to more safely reach the pedestrian signal and commercial areas on University. The Town requested this new sidewalk after it was suggested by citizens on the very first Town Walk in December 2002.
- A pedestrian was hit by a car and seriously injured crossing Connecticut Ave in December near Washington Street. After reviewing the accident report, Council Member Carr prepared a recommendation to the Council for safety improvements including improved streetlighting and better sidewalk placement.
- The Traffic Advisory Committee met on March 17th. The committee wrote a letter to the Council requesting that the Town begin hiring off duty police officers for supplemental enforcement of our traffic laws.
- Council Member Carr wrote to fellow Council Members to request consideration of a short sidewalk on Frederick Ave to enable a shorter and safer route between Kensington House apartments and the nearby commercial area.
- Council Member Carr along with members of the traffic committee met with Traffic Engineer, Joe Cutro, to discuss pedestrian and traffic safety improvements on Plyers Mill Road. Mr. Cutro will report his findings to the Council at an upcoming work session.

As always, please e-mail me or call me any time you have an idea, question or concern.
phone: 946-4956. e-mail: acarr@aol.com

Council Member Timlin

A Signage Workshop was held in Town Hall on Wednesday, February 24, 2004 at 8 am. I gave a presentation to Town merchants and owners regarding the upcoming enforcement schedule for the signage ordinance, as well as opportunities for making comments/suggestions for the amendments to the sign ordinance. Approximately 30 merchants attended. (A scheduled discussion for the April Town meeting and a Hearing at the May meeting were later approved at our following work session.) Former Council Member Bruch assisted in the question/answer period at the workshop. For questions regarding specific signs, merchants are directed to call Louise Hamilton at Town Hall (301-949-2424).

The Promotions Group of the Revitalization Steering Committee met Thursday, April 1, 2004 to continue plans for promotional events in the Kensington business district. Initial materials were presented using a promotional/event name of Discover Kensington, and including plans for some signage, flyers, web calendar, and advertising. The creation of a Third Thursday Open House was approved for each monthly calendar. Final budgets and

plans are to be presented at a Thursday, April 15th meeting at 6pm in Town Hall. We are planning for an initial event in June.

Building Permits Issued

Construct deck at 10604 Lexington Court
Sign at 3730 Howard Avenue
Driveway apron at 10217 Summit Avenue

Budget Meeting

March 22, 2004

A budget meeting was held on March 22, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, Timlin, Clerk-Treasurer Engels, and Director of Operations Furman were present. The group reviewed projected revenues and expenses for the proposed Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Town Budget and discussed the following budget priorities: the hiring of off duty police; street/sidewalk reconstruction; upgrading streetlighting; further renovations to Town Hall to provide better work conditions for staff and make other improvements as recommended by the Armory Committee; and seeking outside assistance with commercial promotions for the business district.

A requested donation from Kensington Parkwood Elementary School for the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals was discussed. The donation would go towards the entrance fee for students who have progressed to the World Finals. Subsequently, the Council concurred to donate \$500.

Rental of Town Hall by private groups serving alcohol was discussed. The Council concurred to allow only beer/wine and agreed that the Mayor would research how similar halls handle this. Subsequently, the Mayor developed a permit for beer/wine use for private groups renting the Town Hall.

Closed Session

March 29, 2004

A closed session was held on March 29, 2004 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss compensation of Town appointees and employees. Mayor Raufaste, Council Member Pfautz, and Council Member Timlin were present. No actions were taken.

Budget Meeting

March 29, 2004

A budget meeting was held on March 29, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Raufaste, Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, Timlin, Clerk-Treasurer Engels, and Director of Operations Furman were present. Projected revenues and expenses for the proposed

Fiscal Year 2004/2005 Town Budget were discussed. Maintaining a specific amount in reserves was also discussed.

Town Meeting

March 29, 2004

Mayor Raufaste called the Meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with Council Members Carr, Cowan, Pfautz, and Timlin, Director of Operations Furman, and Clerk-Treasurer Engels present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cub Scout Pack 460, Den 6, Weeblos I, and Den 7, Tigers. A Moment of Silence was observed for Charles Middleton, a long time resident of the Town who recently passed away.

Wat Stewart was sworn in by the Mayor for the office of Board of Elections.

Council Member Timlin presented proposed amendments to the sign ordinance (adopted in May 2000) which included a listing of allowed signs, addition of a variance procedure, altering the order of permitting for the historic district and allowing monument signs. The proposed amendments would have an enforcement date of September 1, 2004. Business owners expressed concerns over the amendments and the enforcement date and requested more time to have input on the amendments. The Council postponed introducing amendments to the existing ordinance and will have further discussion at the April 26th Town Meeting and a hearing at the May 24th Town Meeting before approving the proposed amendments. A copy of the proposed amendments will be available at Town Hall and on the Town web site. Also a video on signs will be shown to any one interested.

The Minutes from February 23 and March 1, 2004 were reviewed.

The summer meeting dates were set as follows: Work Session, June 14 at 7:00 p.m.; Meeting to set Council Responsibilities, July 5; Work Session, July 26 at 7:00 p.m.; Work Session, August 16 at 7:00 p.m.; Work Session, September 13 at 7:00 p.m.; and Town Meeting, September 27 at 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor proclaimed the week of April 26-30 as Municipal Government Week.

Mayor and Council presented monthly reports.

Council Member Carr informed the Council of the Traffic Advisory Committee's continued recommendation to hire off duty police to enforce traffic laws in Town. The off duty police would rotate between various traffic hot spots avoiding duplication of areas already being enforced.

The Mayor and Council discussed Council Member Carr's request for a sidewalk in front of Kensington House and will discuss further with other sidewalk priorities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Council Actions

Council Member Pfautz moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments of Robin Watson, Wat Stewart, and John Thompson to the Board of Supervisor of Elections and the appointment of Ted Rosche to the Ethics Commission for a two-year term. Council Member Carr seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve the minutes for February 23, 2004 and March 1, 2004 as published in the March Journal. (Minutes were listed in the Journal with an incorrect date of March 2, 2004, the correct date being March 1, 2004). Council Member Carr seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Timlin moved to adopt the Mayor's proclamation to declare April 26-30 as Municipal Government Week in Kensington. Council Member Pfautz seconded and it passed unanimously.

Council Member Pfautz moved to approve Town of Kensington Major Priorities for FY 2004-05 and Beyond as printed in the March 2004 Journal. Council Member Carr seconded and it passed unanimously.

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